

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 AID-20 IO-13 DPW-01 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 049710

O R 251204Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5064

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

388 TFW KORAT

DOD SPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

354 TFW KORAT

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56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP
8 TFW UBON
ARMA/AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5182

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW,
388 TFW, 354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2
AND PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - 25 JULY 1973

REF: VIENTIANE 5125

I. MILITARY SITUATION

A. MR'S II AND V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED
DURING PERIOD 23-25 JULY.

B. MR I: FRIENDLY PLATOON CLASHED JULY 19 WITH 15 PL
APPROX 12 KM NORTH OF PAK LAY, WITH NO CASUALTIES.

C. MR III:
(1) THREE MAJOR ENEMY ATTACKS OCCURED IN XE XANG
XOY AREA. FRIENDLY COMPANY WAS ATTACKED JULY 22 BY 2 NVA
COMPANIES SUPPORTED BY MORTAR/ROCKET FIRE AT WD 4421. TWO
FRIENDS KIA, 3 WIA, AND 4 MIA, WITH ENEMY CASUALTIES
UNKNOWN. AN ESTIMATED NVA BATTALION, SUPPORTED BY 300
ROUNDS MORTAR/ROCKET FIRE, ATTACKED TWO FRIENDLY COMPANIES
JULY 22 AT WD 3920. FOURTEEN FRIENDS WERE MIA, WITH ENEMY
CASUALTIES UNKNOWN. THIRD ATTACK OCCURED JULY 23 AT WD
3819 WHEN FRIENDS WERE ATTACKED BY 2 PL/NVA COMPANIES,
SUPPORTED BY MORTARS, AND FORCED TO WITHDRAW WITH NO
CASUALTIES REPORTED. IN THE SAME AREA, JULY 23, A MINOR
GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACK OCCURED AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS
BY ONE NVA/PL COMPANY RESULTING IN NO CASUALTIES.
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(2) MINOR GROUND ATTACK BY 2 NVA PLATOONS ON FRIENDLY
POSITION AT WD 1787 TOOK PLACE JULY 21. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES
WERE ONE WIA WITH 5 ENEMY KIA.

D. MR IV: FRIENDLY SQAUD CLASHED JULY 22 WITH A PL PLATOON
ABOUT 23 KMS SOUTHWEST OF PAKSE. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE
ONE KIA AND 2 WIA, ITH ONE CIVILIAN KIA AND ONE WIA.

ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE UNKNOWN.

E. IN ONLY AIR ACTIVITY RLAF FLEW 11 COMBAT SORTIES IN MR III. THERE WERE 7 T-28 AND 4 AC-47 SORTIES. THREE T-28 AND 4 AC-47'S WERE IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT.

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

A. ACCORDING TO XAT LAO, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA TOLD FRENCH JOURNALIST JULY 23 THAT LAO INTERNAL TALKS MAY SOON COME TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. SOUVANNA REPORTEDLY STATED NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIST OF 5 LPF, 5, RLG AND 2 NEUTRAL MINISTER AND THAT NEW PRIME MINISTER WOULD ALSO BE A NEUTRALIST (PRESUMABLY HIMSELF). AT THE SAME TIME, HE REJECTED IDEA OF PATHET LAO TROOPS BEING STATIONED IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE.

B. SIENG SERI QUOTES RLG CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN AS SAYING THAT AT MEETING JULY 23 BOTH SIDES MADE MINOR CONCESSIONS WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF TALKS. PHENG'S STATEMENT COINCIDES WITH RECENT REMARKS LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY HAS MADE TO LOCAL DIPLOMATS DECLARING THAT LPF HAS CHANGED ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION AND SUGGESTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE CONCLUDED SOON. (COMMENT: THESE NOTES OF OPTIMISM ACCORD WITH SOUVANNA'S PREDICTION, CITED SEPTEL, THAT A COMPROMISE MAY BE ACHIEVED SHORTLY, POSSIBLY BY THE END OF JULY)

C. SOUVANNA ALSO NOTED TO JOURNALISTS THAT HE INTENDS TO ACCEPT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE'S INVITATION TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS IN SEPTEMBER, AND PLANS TO LEAVE FOR CONFERENCE IN LATE AUGUST.

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